

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5299

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001

LIBERAL AND SECULAR CHARACTER OF INDIAN EDUCATION

A. VENKATESH NAIK;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;M.V.V.S MURTHI;NIVEDITA MANE;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Liberal and Secular Character of Indian Education is being eroded;
- (b) if so, whether letters and representations have been received in this connection from various leaders, State Chief Ministers and organisations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the points raised therein; and
- (d) the response of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to stop the communalisation of Indian education?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
(MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) to (d): Apprehensions have been expressed by some quarters about communalisation of education. However, the Government is committed to the secular nature of education. The National Policy on Education (1986), as modified in 1992 is based on an in-depth review of the whole gamut of educational situation. It provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to a comparable quality. The National System of Education which would be based on a national curricular framework containing a common core along with other flexible components. The common core would include the history of India's freedom movement, the constitutional obligations and other content essential to nurture national identity. These elements would cut across subject areas and would be designed to promote values such as India's common cultural heritage, egalitarianism, democracy and secularism, equality of the sexes, protection of the environment, removal of social barriers, observance of the small family norm and inculcation of a scientific temper. All educational programmes are carried on in strict conformity with secular values as per the provisions of the National Policy on Education, 1986, as revised in 1992.